

A L F R E D

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T O T H E

BISHOP OF LONDON.

Withers
K

Tros Tyriusve mihi nullo Discrimine agetur.

VIRGIL.

In Judgment, Thou shalt not honor the Person of the
Mighty.

LEVITICUS. XIX. 15.

This also belongeth unto the Wife—not to have Respect
of Persons in Judgment.

For he that saith unto the Wicked, Thou art Righteous,
him shall the People curse, him shall the Nations abhor.

PROVERBS. XXIV. 24, 25.

If ye have respect to Persons, ye commit Sin.

JAMES. II. 9.

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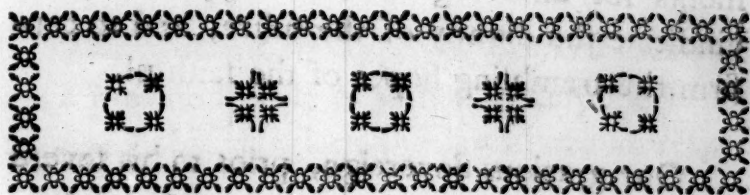
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T O T H E
B I S H O P OF L O N D O N.



ABSTRACTED from the carnal world and devoted to meditation and prayer, my Lords the Bishops are strangers to the subject matter of this address. They have not heard that Mrs. Fitzherbert is a PAPIST. They know nothing of her union with the Prince of Wales. I feel it however my duty to apprize their Lordships of what passes among the sons of men; confident of their kind acknowledgments

ments for affording them an opportunity to vindicate the dignity of the mitre, and to confirm the trembling hopes of the faithful.

Our gracious Sovereign, prior to his severe affliction, was pleased to command the subordinate officers of the realm to enforce obedience to the laws constituted by Parliament for the suppression of vice and immorality, strictly enjoining his beloved subjects, of all ranks and denominations, to countenance and support the said officers in the discharge of the Royal Will and pleasure.

His Majesty was also pleased to command those **NEAR HIS ROYAL PERSON** to be particularly circumspect in their deportment—to **KEEP HOLY the SABBATH DAY**—to **ABSTAIN FROM FORNICATION**, from **DRUNKENNESS** and from **OATHS**. Wisely considering, that example is infinitely more powerful than precept, and that it is cruelty in the extreme to punish the lower orders of society for offences which illustrious sinners commit with impunity.

Dat

Dat veniam Corvis, vexat Censura Columbas,
 is a prevailing rule of justice in despotic Countries; but in England the laws have no respect for persons.

In compliance therefore with the royal command, and in exact conformity to the canons of our holy church, * I do hereby present the **WIDOW FITZHERBERT**, of Pall-Mall, for a loose, disorderly course of life—namely, for fornication with **HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GEORGE, PRINCE OF WALES**.

I do also present the said **GEORGE, PRINCE of WALES**—The Son and Subject of our gracious Sovereign—for aiding,

* Si ad aures episcopi, five **FAMA PUBLICA** referente, five ex relatione personarum fide dignarum pervenerit, quæquam suæ diocæsi aliquod crimen notorium commisisse (quævis tale crimen non fuerit per inquisitores detectum aut præsentatum) Episcopus **POTEST CITARI** mandare delinquentem ad comparandum personaliter coram eo in Loco solito Judiciali, certis articulis animæ suæ salutem concernentibus, & sibi objiciendis responsum.

Ordo Judiciorum. Tit. 139.

abetting

abetting, and comforting the said Widow Fitzherbert in her sinful practices, in direct opposition to the royal Will, and to the utter subversion of decency and order.

¶ To convince you, Reverend Father, of the propriety and importance of this extraordinary process, I humbly entreat your attention to the subsequent detail.

Hearing from every quarter, that His Royal Highness was pleased to honor Mrs. Fitzherbert with particular marks of respect, and to pass the night with her in Park-street—Brighton—and other places, I gave credit to Mr. Horne Tooke's declaration, that they were "duly, truly, and legitimately married."

In consequence of this belief, I addressed the said Widow Fitzherbert by the title ROYAL HIGHNESS, in conformity to the divine command—*Speak not evil of dignities, but render honor to whom honor is due.*

I also

I also exhorted her Highness to read her recantation from the errors of the Church of Rome, in order to be qualified for the high and illustrious station, to which divine providence had been pleased to call her.

Upon this, sundry evil minded persons endeavoured to deter me from the pious and praise-worthy design; solemnly declaring that one THOMAS ERSKINE, a man of terrifying eloquence, and Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales had received instructions to prosecute your unfortunate Son, even unto death.

Whereupon I resolved to put myself under the protection of the Church, and I have no doubt, Reverend Father, of being able to defeat this infidel Goliath, if we combat on Holy ground.

¶ Mrs. Fitzherbert is either a WIFE or a WHORE.*

I offer

* I protest, on my honor, I have no personal resentments to gratify on this occasion. Mr. Ridgway will do me the justice to corroborate what I now assert—I offered to expunge any

B

passage

I offer no apology for the term—it is scriptural, it is legal. And if my arguments place Her Highness in a dishonorable point of view, let it be ascribed to the officious zeal of the PARTY. If it be “TREASON” to allege that Mrs. Fitzherbert is MARRIED, it is JUSTICE to pronounce her a STRUMPET. As we are enjoined to give honor to whom honor is due, so we are forbidden, on pain of the high displeasure of Almighty God, to say “to the WICKED, ye are RIGHTEOUS.”

It is a mystery—I hope not of iniquity—but certainly a mystery that demands IMMEDIATE investigation.

passage in the History of the Royal Malady which might particularly hurt the feelings of Mrs. Fitzherbert—*GRATIS*. I went further—Whether this negotiation stop or proceed—*that is*—whether a compensation be given me for suppressing the Conversation Piece, or whether my Property be returned—*re infestâ*—I will avoid the topic in future which gives her pain.

But when I found my property detained—especially when I discovered in the Letter, entitled NEMESIS, that Her Royal Highness, alias the Widow Fitzherbert is a Lady of gentle and condescending virtue, I resolved to pursue the business to a conclusion, mindful of the honor and interests of my Country.

Send

Send your Citation, my Lord, to the suspected fair One.—If innocent—let her wipe off the foul aspersions of the P A R T Y If guilty—let her receive the correction of the Church.

¶ If the Lady be, *ipso facto*, MARRIED, according to the rites and ceremonies of the establishment, I hope the said Thomas Erskine and all his confederates will be hanged—at least excommunicated—for affirming that her Royal Highness is a mere Strumpet to the Prince of Wales.

If GUILTY—compel the fair Delinquent to kneel and receive your spiritual reproof—Chasten also her body, for the good of her Soul.

But in the midst of Judgment, Holy Father, be mindful of Mercy.

Consider, that the best of us are sinful—that the sex, in particular, derive from their original Mother an appetite for----mischief.

Consider her **H A B I T**—sanguine and athletic.

Consider, also, her **AGE**—Forty---in compliment to her sex, let it be five and thirty—a perilous age indeed! The maturity of passion, the Acme of sensibility! If a lady be unfortunately a widow at this critical period, there is danger of her waxing wanton against Christ himself—of indulging the propensities of her heart, at the hazard of fame, and health, and life—nay, even with **DAMNATION** before her eyes. I hope no one will have the assurance to contradict me. I speak the language of inspiration, and cannot err.—[Paul to Timothy, fifth and third.]

Consider, also, the **TEMPTATION**. If the lady be a Venus, the Lover is indisputably an Adonis, and, with the fascinating appendages of royalty, irresistible.

If the mother—a model of Perfection and Virtue, with the joys of Paradise to reward obedience,

obedience, DEATH and HELL to deter from transgression----in defiance of Death and Hell tasted the forbidden fruit, and consigned the race of man to damnation for----an APPLE, great compassion is due to the frailty of a daughter, seduced by the charms of a PRINCE of WALES.

I entreat you to be persuaded, Holy Father, I do not presume to accuse His Highness of the Subtlety of the Serpent. I sincerely believe him to be as harmless as a Dove. And I hope the argument may be restricted to the charms of his Person.

It is equally foreign to my intention to shield the Offender from the punishment due to her sins. Take her, Holy Father, and give her the discipline she merits.

—————*sublimi flagello,*
Tange Chloen semel prurientem.

HORACE.

If the correction of the flesh be productive of contrition of spirit, speak comfortably to the
disconsolate

disconsolate Penitent; expound the way of salvation; remind her that Mary Magdalene---as great a Strumpet as herself---is now in Heaven.

Exhort her to chasten the Body for the good of the Soul—to fast—to pray—to mortify the *φρονημα σαρκος*,* the nameless something in her frail humanity that incites her to evil.

Remind her, also, of the honor due to
WIDOW SINDEED.†

Nevertheless, if the gift of continence be denied—and doubtless, Holy Father, she will inform you, as you are both in petticoats—counsel her to MARRY. For what saith the Apostle? “It is better to marry than to BURN.§

* A Phrase used in the Articles of the Church.

† 1 Cor. vii. 9.

§ 1 Cor. vii. 7.

Of



OF THE CONTINGENT CONSEQUENCES
TO THIS COUNTRY, IF THE QUEEN,
OR PRINCESS REGENT, BE A PA-
PIST.



I have hitherto indulged, by a dato non concessio, the strange idea of the PARTY, that Mrs. Fitzherbert ministers to the sensual appetites of the Prince, in the abject condition of a FILLE DE JOIE, and the subject has been treated with the levity it deserves.

Let us now proceed, my Lord Bishop, on the hypothesis of Horne Tooke—THE LADY IS A PAPIST, AND THE LEGITIMATE CONSORT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Independant

Independently of her HIGH CONNECTIONS, it would not be of sufficient moment to enquire what water Her Royal Highness deems most holy. Nor whether her pockets be filled with Relics and Amulets, with the toys and trifles of the church. Let the Arcana of her Faith be sacred.

Neither is it of any consequence to God or man, in what attitude a lady performs her devotions, whether standing, kneeling,—prostrate or supine.

Nor will I withdraw my allegiance, because, in her spiritual emergencies, Her Highness relies on the intercession of *St. Winifred*, instead of the appointed Mediator, Christ. Profound humility is the plea, and I candidly accept it.

Nor will I complain, if Her Highness be disposed to communicate the soft emotions of her heart to her Confessor, and to consult him on the best means of subduing the sinful propensities of her frame.

In

In a word, my Lord, I would pass over the RELIGION of Her Highness, in compliment to her VIRTUES, if men of greater wisdom, age, and experience, than I can boast, were not alarmed for the safety of the realm.

With great liberality and dignity of sentiment, they admit it to be a trifle light as air, whether Her Highness be a protestant, or a papist—ABSTRACTEDLY considered. But the relative and remote effects, they contend, will be of INFINITE IMPORTANCE.

Hæ nugæ feriâ ducunt in mala.

The salvation of their husbands—and they urge it to the honor of Catholic Ladies—is the darling purpose of the heart. In the happy moments of domestic tenderness—in the

—————*mollissima fandi tempora,*
Et rebus dexter modus—————

as Virgil elegantly expresses it—the pious dames operate on their FEELINGS, and

C

then

then employ the Priest to speak to their
FEARS.

Hence it is not without reason, that men of discernment expect the HEAD will become the convert of the HEART.

If his highness, in defiance of Parliament, in contempt of paternal injunction be wedded to a papist, he may complete the triumphs of his Consort, by an indulgent assent to the Credenda of her church.

Can a Prince—gentle and condescending—resist a lady whom he ardently loves? If her charms induced him to lay the Imperial Diadem at her feet, can he deny her the felicity of seeing him bend to a crucifix, and adore a saint?

And as Her Highness is animated with the glory of making proselytes to God, suppose the Whim of converting Heretics be extended from the PRINCE to the PEOPLE? And suppose it be, I reply, is it not a consummation devoutly

to be wished? Will our Fleets and armies be no longer victorious? Will the commerce and dignity of the kingdom be ruined?

¶ It is ungenerous, perhaps unjust, to expect any great exertions from this excellent lady, in the present state of her fortune. Ardently as we desire the salvation of the lower orders of Society, I am willing to wait till Her Highness is furnished with resources adequate to her zeal. Under the economy of her friendships, the REVENUE of ENGLAND will afford ample supplies for the reformation of the poor.

Meanwhile it gives the sincerest pleasure to every liberal mind, that Her Royal Highness is making the necessary arrangements for the great and glorious enterprize.

“ In the next Parliament, Mr. Howard will come in for Gloucester. Lord Petre will bring in one, if not two, for Thetford. Sir John Swinborne, Sir Thomas Gascoyne, and many others. The Duke of Norfolk comes into a high office, so there

is a prospect, if this woman's influence continue, of Popery being greatly encreased. She has correspondence in France through the Gros Abbe, the Duke of Orlean's bastard brother; and through Abbe Taylor, and some Irish friends in many parts of Italy." *

* NEMESIS, Page 14. I have waited with impatience for the PARTY to confute what NEMESIS has advanced, concerning the intimacy of Mrs. Fitzherbert with Count Bellois—and the Cardinal de Rhoan. If a Prince of Wales marry a SUBJECT, without permission, he violates an Act of George the Third; if a PAPIST, an Act of William and Mary; if a MISTRESS of a foreign Count—he violates every law of honor and decent pride! Gracious Heaven! The Refuse of a Foreigner to be consecrated QUBEN of ENGLAND!

YOUR



YOUR LORDSHIP'S
O P I N I O N

OF THE

M A T T E R.



ACCUSTOMED to enjoy the whole of the argument in the pulpit, I had nearly forgotten to notice your Lordship's objections.

In the first Place, your Lordship will ask me—By what authority, Sir, do you decide on subjects of final importance to the church of God?

A pretty Advocate indeed for uncorrupted Christianity! You don't care what water Her Highness deems holy—It is of no consequence, with

with you, whether she prays to Christ, or St. Winifred.—Relics and amulets, purgatory and transubstantiation are lighter than vanity.—Seducing the poor into the damnable errors of popery, you term—*reforming their morals*.—And you charitably hope the revenue of England will be employed in the pious and praiseworthy enterprize!

And this you stile, forsooth —Liberality of sentiment; a noble diffusion of benevolence; a generous regard for the Public good! Take care, young man, or I shall unfrock you for your sublime conceptions; your liberal enlargement of mind.

Is not Popery a SPIRITUAL TYRANNY? Read this passage, Sir, from Dr. Robertson's History of Scotland.

“ Popery is a species of false Religion, remarkable for the strong Position it takes in the Heart. Contrived by men of deep insight into the human character, and improved by the experience and observation of many successive
ages

ages, it arrived at last to a degree of perfection, which no former system of superstition had ever attained. There is no power in the understanding, and no passion in the heart, to which it does not present objects, adapted to rouse and to interest them."

You are here taught, and with great truth, that Popery is a system of imposition, admirably adapted to the **CONSTITUTION** of the **HEART**.

The refinements of Philosophy, Sir, have a tendency to seduce the higher orders of society into **SCEPTICISM**, into positive **INFIDELITY**, and to leave the lower orders a Prey to the artful and active Emissaries of Rome.

Is it of no consequence, whether we obey the dictates of the Spirit of God, or conform to the Institutes of the Pope? If the Apostles, acting from the purest intentions of a renovated heart, under the immediate Inspiration of the Deity, and with a zeal and perseverance unrivalled

valled in the history of man, were COMMANDED to say *we are unprofitable servants*, with what countenance can you defend the papistical tenet of MERITORIOUS OBEDIENCE? Paul, after a series of such labors and perils as demanded the testimony of God to render them credible, renounced his achievements, and deemed it superlative happiness to be clothed in the Righteousness of Christ. But a good Catholic (and I perceive you deserve the title, for you are a bad Protestant) will contend that a lazy fellow who withdraws from the duties of society, and sits in a Cell counting his beads, and repeating the formulæ of his Faith, has a RIGHTEOUSNESS to spare, a Surplus of MERIT sufficient for the salvation of thousands !!

Is it no offence to God, no injury to society, for the Priesthood to pick the pockets of dying men, under pretence of delivering them from PURGATORY?

I purposely avoid a detail of the many impious absurdities of the Catholic Faith. With
a person

a person of your sentiments it is useless. But give me leave to remind you, Sir, that **CIVIL Liberty**, which *you* chiefly idolize, is intimately connected with **RELIGIOUS Liberty**. What security have you, under a Catholic Government, for your person, your property, your life?

As to making Profelytes of the Poor, which you absurdly soften into *reformation of morals*, you ought to know, Sir, that one thousand converts in each county—and which may be annually accomplished by very moderate contributions—will soon secure a majority of the Peasantry in the interests of Popery. And then, Sir, if any new privileges be demanded and refused, an **INSURRECTION** will be the consequence. In council, silent as death, in execution, sudden as a whirlwind, the **MASSACRE** will rage, and Protestant blood deluge the realm.

Be not deceived——**POPERY** is **ETERNALLY** the same.

D

At

At the appointed signal, the tenderest ties of friendship are burst asunder. Humanity and mercy are given to the winds. No compassion for sex or age. The smiling infant is dashed on the stones—and the poignard buried in the mother's breast.

Lay aside Hume,—and read your Bible—read the Book of Martyrs. How many were slain at the Massacre of Paris, in 1572?

SEVENTY THOUSAND, my Lord.

In the Irish Massacre?

ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY THOUSAND.

¶ Your ideas of a liberal, enlightened Papist, are vain and romantic. Were your indulgent system adopted by Parliament, **POPERY** would soon be triumphant. The Tyrant James strove to establish that very *Liberty of Conscience* for which you are a rash and inadvertent advocate.

Leave

Leave the protection of the Protestant Faith to the Bishops. They have a seat in Parliament for that purpose. Believe me, they will be steadfast in their duty.

My Lord, I stand corrected; but your Lordship will have the goodness to hear my apology.

Observing that my Lords, the Bishops, concurred in the establishment of Popery in Quebec, and countenanced the Repeal of penal Statutes at home, I was induced to consider Popery as pure, unadulterated Christianity, and the Protestant Religion as a deviation from it's original simplicity.

I was confirmed in my belief, by remarking that your Lordships always receive the petitions of Protestant Dissenters with coolness and reserve.

This discovery of the relative excellence of Popery, I attributed to the inspiration of

the Bench; and I thought it my duty to prepare the way for the establishment of Popery in England.*

* I had no concern in the proceedings of 1780. Though strongly solicited to sign the Protestant Petition, I firmly refused. And yet I had the sincerest regard for many of the Ministers and private Gentlemen, who countenanced the measure. Of the purity of their views I had no doubt; of the innocence and integrity of their manners, I had personal conviction. But I saw the unhappy alternative to which Parliament must be reduced—a *surrender of their dignity by a repeal*—or a *preservation of their dignity at the hazard of our existence*.

I was intimately acquainted with the business in its origin, communicated my fears to a man in power, and I conjured his Lordship to consider the influence of religious prejudice in the human heart. I besought him to anticipate the consequences of zeal made frantic by disappointment; and pointed out a plain and easy method of retarding the application till Parliament might reconsider the business without loss of dignity. Yet no effort was made to avert the impending destruction. The man was born to be the scourge of his country.

When the predicted horrors made their appearance, I desired his Lordship to consult the safety of his person. *His fated humanity!!* Happy for England, happy for America, had the sword then pierced his heart. It had stopt a torrent of civil blood. But the doctrine of Lord St. John's motto is sterling truth—as individuals and as nations.

Data fata sequimur.

The world is subject to the Deity, and not the Deity to the world. And yet the VOLITIONS of men are free.

C O N -



CONCLUSION.



WE are indebted, my Lord, to the bounty of Heaven and the bravery of our Ancestors, for the noblest system of Freedom in the Universe. But we are unworthy the blessing, if we do not endeavour to preserve it. The man is an Idiot, a slave from the constitution of his nature, who tamely sees the **FREEDOM** of the **PRESS** invaded by a Tyrant.

I am menaced with a Prosecution for—
“DEFAMATION.”

The

The views and sentiments which dictate the menace, I pity and despise.

It is unnecessary to inform your Lordship that defamation and detraction are synonymous. They imply a **DIMINUTION** of fame and personal dignity. Matrimony, for instance, is a state of honor. To reproach an innocent woman with the violation of her vows is highly criminal. It is **DEfamation** in the popular and proper acceptation of the term; a **DEtraction** from her virtues; a diminution of the honor annexed to wedded fidelity.

Could I do it with safety to his credit, I would ask Mr. Attorney General in *expectancy*—by what argument is the converse of criminality to be established? Is it any detraction from the personal dignity of a **WHORE** to assert that she is **MARRIED**? Is it a diminution of her virtues—a **DEfamation** of her character?

Will the Attorney General *elect* join issue on this point? I will meet him with pleasure and convince

convince him that I fear him neither *in* Westminster Hall nor *out* of it.

It rests with you, my Lord, to examine the Parties on oath, and to determine the legality of the intimacy.

If Mrs. Fitzherbert *be* married, I have done my duty. I have rendered honor to a Lady to whom honor is due.

If Mrs. Fitzherbert *be not* married, I have given her in Alfred and the Conversation Piece, a dignity to which she is not entitled. And this ascription of UNMERITED HONOR is termed—Defamation !!

In a word, my Lord, if His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, the son and subject of a Sovereign whom God “*smote for our SINS,*”* and restored † for our SALVATION, com-

* According to the courtly ideas of my Lords of York and Canterbury.

† Without controversy, for our political salvation.

mence an action for my reporting his **MIS-**
TRESS a woman of Virtue, I will bind the
 Prince and his Mistress to the altar of freedom,
 and devote them to the **MAJESTY** of the
PEOPLE.

I will remind His Royal Highness of a salu-
 tary truth, *whatever difference the accidental*
circumstances of birth and fortune have caused be-
tween us—on a ground of Law we are EQUAL—
the Prince is my P E E R.

In times so perilous, permit me to explain.

Animated by the sincerest love and attach-
 ment to the House of Hanover, I am ready to
 shed my blood in the defence of my Sovereign,
 and the **LEGAL** claims of His Highness the
 Prince to the British Throne. I dare appeal to
 Heaven—to an omnipresent God—for the
 purity of my views and the loyalty of my heart;
 and the man who doubts the purity of my
 views, or the loyalty of my heart, is a **TRAI-**
TOR in conscience. He reasons from his own
 experience to mine.

The

The people of this Happy Island are not the property of the Sovereign. He does not receive them by inheritance, as CATTLE are transferred to an Heir at Law.

The doctrine of the DIVINE INHERITANCE of Kings is a libel on the People of England, and TREASON against the House of Hanover. I owe Love, Allegiance and Respect to George the Third, as the man appointed by the LAWS to execute the WILL of the PEOPLE.

The voice of the People is heard in the LAWS. The Tyrant James refused to obey that voice ; and by the just resentments of God and man, he was driven from the throne.

If the Prince of Wales be prompted by the *bad* men, who surround him, to contest the business in a Court of Justice, I will meet him as my FELLOW SUBJECT, and manifest to the astonished world the integrity of our JURIES,

E

the

the Impartiality of our JUDGES, and the enviable omnipotence of our LAWS. *

Meanwhile, my Lord, if an honorable anxiety for your future interests (such as of late induced his Grace of Queensbury to bid Adieu to an afflicted Sovereign) cause a reluctance in official proceedings, I will save appearances. The King's Bench is the *Custos Morum* of the realm. A rule of Court will enforce obedience. And thus, my Lord, I shall tenderly consult your *interests*, by COMPELLING you to discharge your *duty*.

I need not inform your Lordship, that I am authorized by the laws to present *any* person for a dissolute life, on PUBLIC REPORT. The *Onus probandi*, as far as it respects the report, rests on *me*. The *Onus investigandi* on your Lordship. If Mrs. Fitzherbert be married, I am safe. If Mrs. Fitzherbert be a Whore, my offence consists in giving her a better character than she deserves.

* And this I mean by "devoting them to the Majesty of the people."

If Mrs. Fitzherbert be neither married, nor a Whore, it will be incumbent on your Lordship to declare, that the PUBLIC REPORT concerning her is FALSE.

¶ But this is not all. And if I decline pushing the enquiry to it's limits, it is because my Country is secure. Divine Providence has intercepted our ruin; *the King is restored to the use of Reason.*

Do I insinuate, my Lord, that the *Prince of Wales* would ruin the Country! God forbid. The idea has no existence in my breast. But I do most sincerely, publicly, and confidently declare, that the Prince of Wales's *political Friendships* would ruin the KING, the PRINCE and the PEOPLE. And this I do in utter contempt of the shafts of calumny, and in defiance of the united and individual resentments of the Party.

I am far from being an enemy to the Prince of Wales. I contemplate his Virtues with delight, and his Vices with candor. If the voice

of Truth surprife him, it is to the reproach of his associates that the voice of Truth is not more familiar. But adulation is pleasing to human nature. And a certain road to preferment. Self Esteem readily converts flattery into affection; and Princes heap favors on those who *praise* them, under the fond idea that they are those who *love* them,

I have the honor, Reverend Father, of subscribing myself,

Your very humble,

And most dutiful Son, in the Lord,

PHILIP WITHERS.

SLOAN SQUARE, CHELSEA.

February 28th, 1789.

P. S. If the state of the country * require your Lordship's investigation of this mysterious business, as an Englishman, and I glory in the name, I have a *right* to ask, and I do hereby

* In the event of a demise, or relapse.

insist

insist on being informed, whether the Parties were joined in matrimony by a PAPIST.

Sufficient infamy will be entailed on His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, if he be married to Mrs. Fitzherbert by a PROTESTANT.

After the Priest has informed the lovers for what purpose the consecrated comforts of the marriage bed were instituted, namely for the procreation of children, and for a remedy against fornication, he adds—“ *I require and charge you both (as ye will answer at the dreadful Day of Judgment, when the secrets of all hearts will be disclosed) that if either of you know ANY IMPEDIMENT, why ye may not be LAWFULLY joined together in matrimony, ye do now confess it.**

I dare not admit, even hypothetically, that the Parties are married. Did the Prince of Wales brave the vengeance of Almighty God

* What deliberate, what awful perjury.

for the abject gratification of sensual Appetite ! Indulgent Heaven forgive him ! He knew Mrs. Fitzherbert was a PAPIST—He was conscious he could not marry a SUBJECT, without the permission of his Father, or the authority of Parliament ; and yet he dares the indignation of the Deity at the Day of Judgment, if he knew ANY IMPEDIMENT to their union !

But this affects his HONOR only and his SOUL. What follows subverts his title to the CROWN.

On the supposition that His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales has been married to Mrs. Fitzherbert by a PAPIST, in conformity to the rubric of the Church of Rome, he (meaning the said George, Prince of Wales) has forfeited his claim of inheritance to the Crown of Great Britain. Because “ *no Man reconciled to the Church of Rome shall be Regent or King of these Realms.* ” *

Now, my Lord, to be reconciled to a Church is to conform to it's Rites—to partake of it's

* Act of W. and M.

solemn

solemn Sacraments. This is the grand test of Conversion. And by this Act, His Highness acknowledged the SUPREMACY of the Pope.

I am sensible it may be urged in answer—The Prince did it merely to quiet the Lady's conscience.

In reply, I repeat a passage from Alfred—I shall be sorry to find a MONSTER, where I look for a MAN.

Others of the PARTY may request me to hold the influence of words in proper contempt, contending that His Highness had no more intention to renounce the Faith of his ancestors, than the Duke of Norfolk, when he read his Recantation from the Errors of Popery.

With the Duke of Norfolk, I have no intimacy; I cannot, therefore, admit the argument to be of force, in application to his Grace. But of Catholics, in general, the remark is just—*Words are but wind, and Oaths are lighter than vanity.* The Kingdom is under the curse and interdiction of the Pope. We have no man in
orders

orders* to consecrate the elements. We have no magistrate to administer an oath. It is even MERITORIOUS to deceive heretics. With what avidity did the Parliament of Ireland vote the address to the Prince!! And why? nine-tenths of the people of Ireland are Catholics—Mrs. Fitzherbert is a Catholic, and the Prince of Wales is married to Mrs. Fitzherbert.†

In a word, my Lord, if His Highness be married according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Rome,‡ *the people of these realms will be absolved of their allegiance§ to His Highness, when he accedes to the Regency or the Throne.*

Let Tories and Papists rejoice in the government of a Prince so friendly to their interests.

* This is plain from Mrs. Fitzherbert's request to be married by a P O P I S H Priest.

† According to John Horne Tooke.

‡ Remember, my Lord, here is no subterfuge—no Act of Parliament to render VOID this test of reconciliation.

§ By the Act of W. and M.

Men

Men of sense and spirit will disdain the degrading bondage.

I hope creation will be involved in flames, before **POPERY** and it's concomitant evils are suffered to **REIGN** in Britain: It is transcendently weak and wicked to manifest our loyalty by the costly sacrifice of **CIVIL** and **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**. Better let Royal Converts, repent in exile, or in chains.



A N S W E R S
T O
C O R R E S P O N D E N T S.



ALFRÉD in Reply to a Nobleman will not be published. The happy restoration of the Sovereign's health renders the publication unnecessary. *Parcere subjectis* is a rule never to be forgotten. Reproach of conscience, and popular detestation will make the PARTY sufficiently wretched.

L. S. will pardon me that from motives of delicacy I decline publishing his letter. His remarks on the divided opinions of mankind are just and natural. I hope I have said sufficient to mortify the abettors of Popery and Faction.

¶ The strictures of *Erasmus* on several parts of the Malady, are uncandid. The avidity of the public for anecdotes concerning the King, induced me to procure a few of a curious and entertaining nature. But the phraseology in which

which I received them was improper for the public eye—such and so violent was the royal complaint. After clothing the ideas in a diction as decent as the case would admit, I prefixed them to my political creed. But after all my care, some fastidious Critics affect to be hurt at the licentiousness of the style. The Elders who attempted to seduce Susanna would make similar objections.

I place the essence of religion in the *Heart*. A Minister once said to me, with as much solemnity as though he believed it—*Your doctrine, Sir, is an encouragement to a sinful life.* The pious Hypocrite, was then living in criminal correspondence with several of his congregation!! Hence, I always doubt the sincerity of such captious declaimers.

Not that I am the advocate of indelicacy. If any friend, enemy, or domestic, ever heard me utter *ONE indelicate expression, ONE indecent allusion*, from the first sermon which I had the honor to preach, to the present hour, I will give FIFTY pounds to that friend, enemy, or domestic to publish my infamy to the world.

At the same time, I desire it may be understood, that my tongue is my own. If I think proper, I will employ it in lewdness and blasphemy from morning to night—accountable to none, but *God* and the *Laws*.

¶ It has been confidently asserted by many purchasers of *Alfred* and the *Royal Malady*, that John Horne Tooke, Esq. is the real Author of those Pamphlets, and that my name is either fictitious, or lent for the purpose of concealment.

With Mr. Horne Tooke I have not the honor of any political intercourse or communication whatever.* Nor am I able to discover the principles of his *political conduct*.† His system is too abstruse, for my poor discernment; and hence he appears deficient in **CONSISTENCY** and **PERSEVERANCE**, which constitute true **DIGNITY**. Public men are to be esteemed for their public services. And in my humble opinion, private animosities will not justify a

* I had once an interview with Mr. Tooke, but the subject was—the *origin and stricture of languages*.

† His independence is indisputable, and his present conduct meritorious.

revolt from a PUBLIC CAUSE. Mr. Wilkes was undoubtedly extravagant and in debt; I congratulate Mr. Tooke on his superior discretion.

But Mr. Wilkes was the instrument of abolishing GENERAL WARRANTS, and consequently a BENEFactor to his Country. His manners might be dissipated, his principles corrupt, he might be a deist, an atheist, a devil, for any thing which I know to the contrary, or care. He served the cause of FREEDOM, and I hold him in honorable estimation. I beg leave to add, for diligence and integrity as a Chamberlain, for activity and information as a Magistrate, Mr. Wilkes has no superior.* His present deportment inculcates this important truth—a man may oppose a minister, yet be loyal to his Sovereign; may publicly assert the liberties of his Country, yet be an enemy to Anarchy and Faction.

What I cannot remedy, I may have leave to lament—the *dominion of Self Esteem in the human heart*—in men of letters in particular. They

* The dark designs of his enemies to remove him from office are infamous to the *Projectors*.

are

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are

are truly a *Genus irritabile*; and like the fair sex: abhor a rival.

Mr. Tooke is **INSANE** exclaimed the PARTY, at the last Westminster Election. To reproach an opponent with **INSANITY** is the paltry refuge of morified minds. * But I charitably hope Mr. Tooke was under a defect of Reason, when he attacked the immortal Junius, and wounded the cause of the PEOPLE by deserting Mr. Wilkes.

¶ **BRUTUS** will do me the favor to send the anecdotes of Mrs. Fitzherbert's private life as soon as possible. His address to the Prince is received, and I take the liberty to publish the following extract.

“ The situation of this country is truly alarming; the prospect deplorable.—When we see the liberty and property of one subject attacked, we begin to feel for our own—*Proximus ardet Ucalegon*. And while we reprobate the measure, we are led to enquire into the causes, totally

* This mode of abuse is very antient—They **FOOLS** accounted his life **MADNESS**.

Bible.
unconnected,

unconnected, nay, perfectly unknown to the Author of Alfred, my indignation is roused, my attention is for a moment diverted from the alarming situation of the country, to the tyranny exercised on an individual of the community, of which I have the fortune to be a member—in feeling for him, I feel for myself. In resenting his affront, I assert the dignity of the *people of England*.

“ The respect I entertain for you as the Son of George the third, forbids me to suppose you the Author of the outrage committed on Mr. Withers. Could I for a moment entertain a suspicion so injurious to your honor, I should not hesitate in pronouncing you to be an abetter of tyranny, an enemy to liberty, and therefore an unfit person to be invested with the powers of a regent.

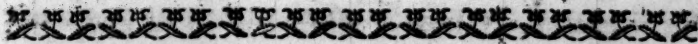
“ When I exculpate you from so base, so tyrannical a proceeding, when I say who were *not* the authors and instruments of such a measure, I with the same freedom, will also declare who were, and are to be considered as such. The persons I allude to are your own Sycophants, the leaders of the opposition, the people
1204
who

who formerly deluged America in blood, and impoverished this country by incurring a debt of *so many millions*. These are the men who wish to sow dissensions among the people, in order to reap a plentiful harvest in another civil war. These are the people who are now your confidential servants and bosom friends—really a pleasing prospect for the people of England—but, Sir, this act of tyranny, this offence against magna charta and the bill of rights (to which your family owe their crown) shall not pass unnoticed.* Whether it has been committed by you, or one of your servants, is equally immaterial to the people of England—the grievance is upon record----it will, it must, nay, it shall be redressed.

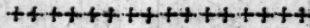
“As for the ridiculous, absurd, and preposterous threats thrown out by your party, he equally despises the insinuation, as he feels himself above the reach of your power. He sees a fixed and immutable barrier between you and him, the laws of this realm, to which he owes his liberty, you your rank and power.”

* The Author, it is said, was willing to sell the copy. What then? Was his property to be detained without CONSENT?

POST



POST IMPRESSUM.



I Have this moment seen an advertisement—
ALFRED UNMASKED; or the NEW
CATILINE.

So far from making a reply to the book, I cannot condescend to read the contents. Anonymous Adversaries are best answered with contempt.

My frailties, I admit, are numerous as the stars of Heaven, but no man ever suspected me of wearing a mask. *Aperto vivere Voto* is the invariable maxim of my Life.

Mr. Sheridan, it is said, is the Author. But if Mr. Sheridan—or any Gentleman of the Party—dare avow that one Word, one Syllable, one Jota of the Narrative in Alfred is false, I give Mr. Sheridan—or any Gentleman of the Party—the **LIE DIRECT.**

This Language I will support from the press, or vindicate at the hazard of my life. More, I

G

cannot

cannot say—less would be inconsistent with the dignity of an Englishman.

I am at a loss to know what analogy the anonymous Author discovers either in my rank, fortune, talents, or political consequence to justify a comparison with Catiline.

After all, it may be only an expedient of some Partizan of Faction to procure bread. ALFRED (however unworthy) is popular. An Edition may be passed off under the Auspices of the name.

I war not with the Wretched. Let the Benevolent relieve the exigencies of the unhappy Author. His book is sold at Faulder's in Bond Street, and the price is one shilling.

I am confirmed in my opinion of it's being a manœuvre of some dependant of a disappointed Faction, from a consideration of the time elapsed since the publication of Alfred. The fifth edition is now on sale. The wit of Sheridan, the
generosity

generosity of Lord Porchester * had not flumbered, if FACTS, stubborn FACTS did not render opposition useless.

PHILIP WITHERS.

SLOAN SQUARE, CHELSEA.

February 28th, 1789.

✍ At the request of a friend, I have read this pamphlet; and I find it necessary to aver, on my honor, *it was not written by me*, for not a word of argument, not a single imputation on the head or heart of Alfred can be found in the whole book. It begins thus—Hearing the *great encomiums* bestowed on a pamphlet entitled Alfred, by several friends of ACCURATE JUDGMENT, I purchased it.

He then charges Mr. Pitt with an attempt to ruin the country,† and then UNMASKS Alfred by

* THIRTY thousand News-Papers, containing Mr. Fox's speech, were sent by this generous Peer to different parts of the Kingdom: The answer received by Shepperfon and Reynolds, from some Corporations, were rather discouraging—if any more Papers or Pamphlets be sent from the PARTY, they will be burnt by the Common Hangman.

† Mr. Pitt has risen from obscurity, says he, "to the dignity of being hated."

shewing that he is Mr. Pitt's—I know not what, his Secretary, his *Aid de Camp* in the glorious work. What contains no reproach, needs no reply.

He then proceeds to *affirm*, not to *demonstrate*, that Lord North is an excellent Financier—— Lord Camden a silly old man——the Duke of Cumberland very loyal; why did he not add, *very wise*?——Lord Stormont *disinterested*——Lords Sydney and Carmarthen—not worth mentioning. And thus ends ALFRED UNMASKED.

The Leaders of the PARTY must now betake themselves to the *Stews*, to *Faro*, and to the *Stage*. The subordinates must resort to their WITS, and if forty or fifty of them can procure bread by attacking ALFRED, they are welcome. My contempt gives place to pity.

Since writing the above, I have seen another Publication, entituled, An important narrative submitted to the consideration of Dr. Withers, concerning the Prince of Wales' name, &c. &c.

Willing to transfer the WHOLE INFAMY
of

of the business to the PARTY, I spoke of His Royal Highness with tenderness and reserve. But the officious zeal of the MANAGER will urge me to measures, which the natural moderation of my temper declined.

The Court of King's-Bench will do justice to my demand of property and atonement.

And a Court of Equity shall determine how far I am justified in my suspicions of the illustrious Personages mentioned in my Narrative: Parties may there be examined, and oaths administered, on a plan inadmissible in the King's Bench. The cause of the CONFUSION and UPROAR at Carlton House—the Negotiators to whom Mr. Ridgway alludes in his letters—and every particular of the transaction *shall be revealed*.

It was not to be expected of the Prince that he would send an instrument under his signature and seal—or even a *verbal Request*. And perhaps no more authority was given by His Highness than by Lord Sydney. The TRUTH, however, *shall be known*.

To



TO THE PUBLIC.

I Have already expressed my profound contempt of *Apostate* Papers—their PRAISE is the only contamination which I dread.

Without any considerable loss of dignity, I may so far notice them as to expose a falshood——

“ The Person who wrote the Pamphlet on the
“ subject introduced by Mr. Rolle into Parlia-
“ ment, was taken into custody, Saturday night.”

The Person, who wrote the pamphlet in question, is UNKNOWN. *I published it*, and am responsible to God and my Country for it's contents, and on Saturday I gave bail to justify my conduct in *publishing* a “ *wicked,*
“ *malicious, unlawful, defamatory*, pamphlet, entitled NEMESIS, against one MARIA
“ FITZHERBERT—WIDOW.”

I will not bid defiance to a *Woman*—but I bid defiance to the PARTY.

Is

Is the Lady married? Let her bring her action in her HUSBAND'S name?

Is the Lady unmarried? My business is to prove an intimacy with a certain LITTLE MAN in Pall-mall; and then, undoubtedly, I shall incur a *heavy Fine* for SULLYING the PURITY of Maria's honor.

Meanwhile, I call upon every Friend to the PROTESTANT FAITH, every advocate for the LIBERTY of the PRESS, every man actuated by HONOR, PATRIOTISM, and a just regard to FREEDOM, to furnish me with all the information in their power, respecting the Friendship between the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Fitzherbert.

The mysterious business must NOW be developed. *Threats, fines, and imprisonment* have no terrors for Alfred. I will be firm in the cause even unto DEATH.

PHILIP WITHERS.

3d MARCH,
1789.

FINIS.

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the Government of India, I will send every friend to the
PROTESTANT PA... every subject to the
the Government of India, I will send every friend to the
PROTESTANT PA... every subject to the

[illegible]